

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell and Eliza Symonds Bell, October 28, 1877, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Parents. 115 Jermyn Street, October 28th, 1877. My own dear Papa and Mama:

I feel very like the Prodigal son in the Bible. Although I am by no means feeding upon husks (I weigh 201 pounds) nor foregathering with swine — still I long — with as great a longing as his — for one look at your dear faces — and for the sound of your voices again.

But unfortunately for me longing rarely can induce me to use a pen. You know me of old and I trust that you will believe that silence with me does not mean forgetfulness or less of love. I have no time to write excepting a scribble like this — and I am obliged to leave all details to Mabel and to the future.

I write specially to explain our sudden change of plan as May declines to do so herself. We had intended returning in November — but before deciding — I thought it wisest to consult a doctor. He says that although he would not oppose our going — still there would be a certain amount of risk involved in taking Mabel across the Atlantic in her present condition. We have therefore decided to remain here until it is perfectly safe for May to return — and Mrs. Hubbard I presume will come to us when the proper time arrives. We shall take a furnished house for six months with the privilege of remaining for a year if advisable. We shall decide our location in a day or two and in the meantime have secured the refusal of one or two houses. Mary Horne will come and live with us and help Mabel to keep house. Have no time for more. My greatest effort is to be made on Wednesday when I address a London audience and I am now writing lecture. There is every prospect that by means of lectures, etc., — I can support myself here this winter without materially

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diminishing the reserve fund I have on hand. Mabel is fast asleep on the sofa — and is perfectly well considering all things.

With ever so much love.

Your affectionate son, Alec. Prof. A. Melville Bell, Brantford, Ontario.